North Carolina Sorosis

Award For Excellence
In
Creative Writing

Honoring

Virginia Wright-Frierson

November 6, 2011
3:00 p.m.

Introducing ***Virginia Wright-Frierson***

Virginia Wright-Frierson earned her BFA degree in painting from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and furthered her studies in Cortona, Italy, New York, and Arizona. She and her family came to Wilmington in 1977.

Virginia began illustrating children's books in the 80s with *Big Boy, Little Boy* in 1984, *When the Tide is Low* in 1985, and *First Grade Can Wait* in 1988. Watercolor and oil on paper illustrations followed in three additional children's books in the 90s: *Down at the Bottom of the Deep Dark Sea* in 1991, *Flowers for You: Blooms for Every Month* and *We're Growing Together* in 1993. She then authored and illustrated three children's books: *A Desert Scrapbook: Dawn to Dusk in the Sonoran Desert* in 1996, *An Island Scrapbook: Dawn to Dusk on a Barrier Island* in 1998, and *A North American Rain Forest Scrapbook* in 1999. Recognition for the excellence of her work includes the John Burroughs List of Nature Books for Young Readers (awarded 3 times), the New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing, the Society of School Librarians' International Book Award, CCBC Choices, the National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children Award, and the National Council of Teachers of English Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts Award.

Recognition for her art is extensive including over thirty exhibitions in the US and Italy. Her work is included in museums as well as in private and corporate collections. She produced a giant mural for Columbine High School in 2000 which is permanently installed in their rebuilt atrium and was a donation with all expenses paid by the Healing Fund at Columbine High School or donated by art suppliers. Numerous additional public art commissions include "In Response Memorial Commission", a tribute to the victims and heroes of September 11, commissioned by the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2002; artwork for the summer reading program for all NC public libraries, 2002; a mural for the New Hanover County Library, 2003; and especially dear to NC Sorosis members, the Minnie Evans Memorial Garden at Airlie Gardens where she served as project director constructing a chapel of mortar and 5000 colored glass bottles, seven-sided, 17 feet high, 17' x 17' inside dimensions. As lead artist, she designed walkways surrounding the chapel and directed the work of six other artists creating surrounding sculptures, a commission awarded in February, 2003, and completed in August, 2004.

She has taught at the Penland School and has taught and conducted workshops in North Carolina, Maine, Arizona, Italy and France. She is a popular lecturer on painting, major projects, writing and illustration, and current exhibitions.

Virginia is married to Dargan Frierson, Jr., Professor of Statistics, UNC Wilmington. The couple has two children, Dargan Michael Wright Frierson, PhD Atmospheric Science, and Amy Marguerite Wright Frierson, BA Art and Design, NC State University.

Today's Program

Music	Marilyn Gray
Welcome and Introductions	Ann Tremblay and Kathie Jorgensen, Scholarship Co-Chairs
History of Awards	Teresa Lee, First NC Sorosis Scholarship Chair
Introduction of Award Recipient	Kathie Jorgensen
Remarks	Virginia Wright-Frierson
Presentation of Old Wilmington Cup	Kathie Jorgensen
UNCW Creative Writing Scholarship	Ann Tremblay
2008 Scholarship Winner	Laura Williams
Introduction of 2011 Recipient	Tim Bass, UNCW Creative Writing Department
2011 Scholarship Recipient	Catherine Lee (Catey) Gonzalez
Presentation of Gift	Ann Tremblay
New Hanover Public Library Recognition	Ann Tremblay
Conclusion	Kathie Jorgensen
Book Signing in the Parlor Celebration Refreshments	Virginia Wright-Frierson

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Thank you for being with us today to honor three special women in our community, one an accomplished and celebrated artist and author, another studying to acquire and hone a writer's skills, and a third a previous scholarship winner and 2011 *summa cum laude* UNCW graduate. Please join us for refreshments and further conversation with Ginny, Catey and Laura.

North Carolina Sorosis was organized in 1895 and affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1896 and the GFWC of North Carolina in 1902. GFWC is the largest organization of women volunteers in the world.

Always active in fighting illiteracy, NC Sorosis began Wilmington's first free circulating library in 1897. In 1901 money was donated for books to spearhead a drive for a free public library, and 1700 books were presented to the city for the new library in 1906. In recent years efforts with children at College Park School have included providing more than $600 in school supplies and securing a grant of $3000 for books for 120 below-grade-level readers.

The club sponsored Wilmington's first large music festival in 1909 featuring the Pittsburgh Orchestra. In 1912 NC Sorosis endorsed a bill to allow women to serve on the county school board. The club established Traveler's Aid and assisted in the organization of the YWCA in 1913.

The League of Women Voters grew out of the club's Civics Department in 1921. In 1925 the club succeeded in getting the city to buy the Greenfield Lake property for a public park. A weekly baby clinic and a Goodwill Center began in 1929. The club equipped and staffed a county museum during 1930-31 in the Courthouse.

The nucleus for the future Hanover Garden Club was formed from the NC Sorosis garden club in 1934. In the same way the Thursday Morning Music Club grew out of the NC Sorosis music club ten years earlier.

NC Junior Sorosis was organized in 1938. Wilmington Woman's Club was sponsored in 1964 and the Night Department of NC Sorosis was formed in 1980.

NC Sorosis continues its commitment to promoting volunteerism to address the varied needs of our community by promoting education, preserving natural resources, encouraging healthy lifestyles, supporting participation in the arts, working on behalf of the elderly and individuals with disabilities, and advocating for issues of concern to women, children, and families. Support for the Boys and Girls Home, Cape Fear Museum, Domestic Violence Shelter, Lower Cape Fear Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, NC Aquariums, Airlie Gardens, Wilmington Children's museum, and the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM) are among current projects.